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ON PAGE 613

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SPY SUSPECT SEEN AS SOVIET FRIEND

Witness Says Russian Emigré
Seemed Indoctrinated and
Assailed U.S. Life Style

By JUDITH CUMMINGS

Special to The New York Times

LOS ANGELES, April 24 — The Government's first witness against two Russian émigrés charged with being Soviet spies today depicted the key defendant as a malcontent who regretted coming to America and seemed "indoctrinated" to see only the worst in life in the United States.

The witness, Michael Markarian, testified that he knew the key defendant, Svetlana Ogorodnikov, from her patronage as a customer at his Russian restaurant in Hollywood. Mrs. Ogorodnikov and her husband, Nikolay, have been accused of spying for the Soviet Union in a conspiracy with Richard W. Miller, an agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Mr. Markarian took the witness stand as the Ogorodnikovs' trial resumed for the first time since opening statements were given Friday.

The Government contends that the Ogorodnikovs were "utility agents" for the K.G.B., the Russian intelligence and security agency, and that they were trying to earn their way back to the Soviet Union.

'Everything Was Pro-Soviet'

Mr. Markarian testified that Mrs. Ogorodnikov used to frequent his restaurant, Mischa's, in the late 1970's to promote what she said were Russian-American cultural relations. But as time went on, he said, "everything was pro-Soviet and hardly anything was pro-American."

He said she often regaled other emigre customers about the advantages of returning to the Soviet Union, and seemed "indoctrinated." She deplored crime and pornography in America, he added, while extolling the Soviet Union as a "beautiful, crime-free society where the government provided for children and the aged."

The witness testified that Mrs. Ogorodnikov told him she "regretted leaving the Soviet Union," and said she sometimes entertained consular officials from San Francisco at Mischa's.

"She said she was looking for favors, that she did want to go back to the Soviet Union," Mr. Markarian said.

Defense Attorney's Statement

In his opening statement last week, Brad L. Brian, Mrs. Ogorodnikov's attorney, rejected the Government's contention that the K.G.B. told her to try to seduce and recruit F.B.I. agents.

The Government contends that before Mrs. Ogorodnikov was involved with Mr. Miller, she was involved with John E. Hunt, an F.B.I. counterintelligence agent who was assigned to her case until 1983.

Mr. Brian said the evidence would show instead that "she was an informant for the F.B.I. long before she met Mr. Miller," and that she "provided valuable information on the Soviet consulate in San Francisco and on the Russian community" on the West Coast.

Still, Mr. Brian told the jury that much of the evidence that he expected the prosecution to present was undisputed.

Among the assertions he would not dispute, he said, were that Mrs. Ogorodnikov and Mr. Miller had a sexual relationship last year; that they took a trip together last August to San Francisco, where she visited the Soviet consulate; that Mrs. Ogorodnikov received telephone calls from Aleksandr Grishin, a consular official known to American intelligence as an officer in the K.G.B., and that in those conversations the two talked about her accompanying Mr. Miller to Europe to meet her "acquaintances."

Mr. Brian said that in 1982, Mr. Hunt asked Mrs. Ogorodnikov to be an informer for the bureau because of the value of her contacts with Soviet consular and embassy officials in the United States. The defense attorney also said Mr. Hunt had "instructed" Mrs. Ogorodnikov to tell consular officials that Mr. Hunt was her "F.B.I. boyfriend," that he had drinking and other problems and was quite "vulnerable" to K.G.B. recruitment efforts.

Instructions From the K.G.B.

While this was going on, Mr. Brian said, Mrs. Ogorodnikov fell in love with Mr. Hunt and began seeing him three or four times a week.

When her relationship with Mr. Hunt ended, she became depressed and unstable, Mr. Brian said, and she turned to Mr. Miller in an effort to reclaim her status as an F.B.I. asset.

The chief prosecutor in the case, Richard B. Kendall, portrayed Mrs. Ogorodnikov as a dominant personality, part of whose instructions as a spy came directly from "the Center," the K.G.B. headquarters in Moscow.

To indicate to the jury that she sometimes used classic spy techniques, Mr. Kendall, an Assistant United States Attorney, recounted in detail a surveillance incident that he said took place last September.

He said Mrs. Ogorodnikov was observed entering an Ohrbach's department store in Los Angeles and standing wordlessly at a women's shoe display, when "a balding man" approached and they conversed without looking at each other. The man briefly stuck his hand inside a shoe, he said, and she put her hand in the same shoe. They departed separately without ever looking at each other. "He has never been identified and was never seen again," Mr. Kendall said.

Randy Sue Pollock, the attorney for Mr. Ogorodnikov, told the jury that the evidence "basically" did not involve her client, and described the case as "a story of Svetlana Ogorodnikov and a relationship she had with two other men, Richard Miller and John Hunt."

Miss Pollock told the jurors that the only reason Mr. Ogorodnikov stayed with his wife was for the sake of their 13 year-old son, Matnew.